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Smith: Soviets faked KKK Olympics threats

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CHICAGO - The Soviet Union, through the KGB, used forged letters purportedly written by the Ku Klux Klan in an attempt to discourage 20 Asian and African na-

tions from participating in the Summer Olympics, Attorney General William French Smith said yesterday.

The letters "were not produced or sent by the Ku Klux Klan. They were instead manufactured and mailed by another organization devoted to terror: the KGB," Smith said in a keynote address to the American Bar Assn.

The letters were "openly racist and disgusting, and they threaten violence against Asian and African athletes who participate in the games," Smith said. "Fortunately, none of the nations that received these letters succumbed to the attempted intimidation."

The Soviet Union and many other Communist countries are boycotting the Olympics in Los Angeles with most claiming, as the Soviets did, that the United States couldn't guarantee the safety of the athletes. Soviet media have given wide publicity to the "Klan" letters.

Smith declined to amplify on the KGB efforts or to spell out what the US government might do about them.

In his address, he said he could not "detail all of what we know about these documents [letters] for fear of helping the authors to refine their efforts." But, he said, "a thorough analysis - including linguistic and forensic techniques - reveals that they are classic examples of a Soviet forgery or disinformation operation."

Smith also repeated recent Reagan Administration charges that communist nations - he referred specifically to Cuba, Bulgaria and Nicaragua - and certain groups were involved in drug trafficking to support terrorism.

He pointed to a 1982 federal grand jury indictment in which he said four "high-ranking" Cuban officials were alleged to have provided a "safe haven" for suspected Colombian drug trafficker Jaime Guillot-Lara as he transported drugs from Colombia to the US by boat.

In return, Smith said, the Cubans received hard currency used to fund Latin American revolutionary groups. In addition, he said, the Cubans smuggled arms through Guillot-Lara to the "19th of April Movement," a Colombian terrorist organization.

He also said the Justice Department believed the Bulgarian government "has encouraged and aided drug trafficking" through its import-export agency, Kintex. In return for drugs, which Smith said are also sold by the Bulgarians for hard currency, non-Bulgarian traders gave weapons to terrorist groups, primarily in Turkey and Lebanon.

Turning to Nicaragua, he said a federal grand jury indictment filed last week in Miami charging 11 persons with involvement in a cocaine shipment to the US via Nicaragua included a defendant, Federico Vaughan, who Smith said was an aide to the Nicaraguan government minister of the interior.

Smith said the indictment alleged that Vaughan, with the help of Nicaraguan officials, had secured the release of a drug dealer following the dealer's arrest on June 3 in Managua.

The dealer then flew to Florida, he said, returned to Nicaragua with cash and equipment ordered by Vaughan, and left for the US again with 700 kilograms of cocaine.